

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1     1.     An impedance transformation network comprising:  
2                 an input node to receive an output signal;  
3                 an output node to transmit the output signal;  
4                 a fixed impedance transformation circuit connected between the  
5     input node and the output node, the fixed impedance transformation circuit being  
6     configured to provide a fixed impedance transformation to partially transform a  
7     first impedance at the output node to a second impedance at the input node; and  
8                 a varactor device connected in series between the input node and  
9     the output node, the varactor device being configured to provide a variable  
10    impedance transformation in response to a power level of the output signal to  
11    partially transform the first impedance at the output node to the second impedance  
12    at the input node.
- 1     2.     The impedance transformation network of claim 1 wherein the varactor  
2     device includes a ferroelectric varactor connected in series between the fixed  
3     impedance transformation circuit and the output node.
- 1     3.     The impedance transformation network of claim 1 wherein the varactor  
2     device includes a plurality of stacked ferroelectric varactors connected in series  
3     between the fixed impedance transformation circuit and the output node.
- 1     4.     The impedance transformation network of claim 1 wherein the fixed  
2     impedance transformation circuit includes at least one transmission line on a  
3     signal path between the input node and the output node and at least one shunt  
4     capacitor connected to the signal path.
- 1     5.     The impedance transformation network of claim 4 wherein the shunt  
2     capacitor is a chip capacitor.

1     6.     The impedance transformation network of claim 4 wherein the fixed  
2     impedance transformation circuit includes at least one additional transmission line  
3     on a second signal path between a supply voltage terminal and the signal path and  
4     at least one additional shunt capacitor connected to the second signal path, the  
5     second signal path at least partially being used to supply DC bias voltage to the  
6     varactor device.

1     7.     The impedance transformation network of claim 7 wherein the additional  
2     shunt capacitor is a surface mount technology capacitor.

1     8.     A method of transmitting an output signal to an output node, the method  
2     comprising:  
3                 receiving the output signal at an input node; and  
4                 providing a variable impedance transformation between the input  
5     node and the output node using a varactor device connected in series between the  
6     input node and the output node, the variable impedance transformation being  
7     provided in response to a power level of the output signal to transform a first  
8     impedance at the output node to a second impedance at the input node.

1     9.     The method of claim 8 wherein the varactor device includes a ferroelectric  
2     varactor connected in series between the input node and the output node.

1     10.    The method of claim 8 wherein the varactor device includes a plurality of  
2     stacked ferroelectric varactors connected in series between the input node and the  
3     output node.

1     11.    The method of claim 8 wherein the receiving of the output signal included  
2     receiving a radio frequency output signal at the input node.

1     12.    The method of claim 8 further comprising providing a fixed impedance  
2     transformation between the input node and the output node.

1     13.     The method of claim 12 wherein the fixed impedance transformation is  
2     provided by at least one transmission line on a signal path between the input node  
3     and the output node and at least one shunt capacitor connected to the signal path.

1     14.     The method of claim 13 wherein the fixed impedance transformation is  
2     further provided by at least one additional transmission line on a second signal  
3     path between a supply voltage terminal and the signal path, the second signal path  
4     at least partially being used to supply DC bias voltage to the varactor device.

1  
1     15.     A power amplifier comprising:  
2                 an amplifier configured to provide an output signal; and  
3                 an impedance transformation network including an input node and  
4     an output node, the input node being connected to the amplifier, the output node to  
5     be connected to a load, the impedance transformation network further including a  
6     varactor device connected in series between the input node and the output node,  
7     the varactor device being configured to provide a variable impedance  
8     transformation in response to a power level of the output signal to transform a  
9     load impedance at the output node to a desired impedance in a forward direction at  
10    the input node, the forward direction being from the input node to the output node.

1     16.     The power amplifier of claim 15 wherein the varactor device includes a  
2     ferroelectric varactor connected in series between the input node and the output  
3     node.

1     17.     The power amplifier of claim 15 wherein the varactor device includes a  
2     plurality of stacked ferroelectric varactors connected in series between the input  
3     node and the output node.

1     18.     The power amplifier of claim 15 wherein the amplifier is configured to  
2     provide a radio frequency output signal.

1     19.     The power amplifier of claim 15 wherein the impedance transformation  
2     network comprises a fixed impedance transformation circuit connected to the  
3     input node and the varactor device, the fixed impedance transformation circuit  
4     including at least one transmission line on the signal path and at least one shunt  
5     capacitor connected to the signal path.

1     20.     The power amplifier of claim 19 wherein the fixed impedance  
2     transformation circuit includes at least one additional transmission line on a  
3     second signal path between a supply voltage terminal and the signal path and at  
4     least one additional shunt capacitor connected to the second signal path, the  
5     second signal path at least partially being used to supply DC bias voltage to the  
6     varactor device.